

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 241100Z SEP 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5952

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 6553

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, LA

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PR AE MINISTER

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO CINCPAC

1. I PAID MY FIRST CALL ON PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA THIS MORNING. HE RECEIVED ME VERY CORDIALLY AND OUR CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE PARTLY IN HIS SITTING ROOM AND PARTLY WHILE STROLLING IN HIS GARDEN. AFTER WELCOMING ME, SOUVANNA COMMENTED THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORMED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I REPLIED THAT I HAD HEARD THAT OCTOBER 11 MIGHT BE A TARGET DATE. SOUVANNA STATED THAT THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION WOULD END ON THAT DAY AND THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE THE GOVERNMENT INSTALLED BY THEN. I INQUIRED WHETHER PATHET LAO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE JOINT COMMISSION AND PATHET LAO SECURITY PERSONNEL WOULD COME TO VIENTIANE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SOUVANNA REPLIED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THEY WOULD AND THAT HE WAS PRESENTLY AWAITING TTK NAMES OF THE PL MINISTERS WHOSE ARRIVAL HE EXPECTED BY OCTOBER 11.

2. TURNING TO THE SITUATION AT HOME, SOUVANNA ASKED ME ABOUT WATERGATE AND EXPRESSED HIS DEEP REGRET AT THE SECRET

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SITUATION THIS AFFAIR HAS BROUGHT ABOUT. I STATED THAT ALTHOUGH SENATE HEARINGS WOULD PROBABLY END SOON THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS WOULD UNFORTUNATELY KEEP THIS MATTER IN THE PUBLIC EYE FOR

MANY MONTHS.

3. RETURNING TO LAO PROBLEMS THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE PLAYED BY CHARGE DEAN. HE SAID HE HAD HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH "RIGHTISTS" WHICH WAS NOW RESOLVED. I ASKED WHETHER THESE INDIVIDUALS WOULD STAY ON THE RESERVATION OR WOULD STRAY OFF WHENEVER POSSIBLE. SOUVANNA SAID THEY WERE ABOARD FOR KEEPS.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF PL MINISTERS, I MENTIONED THAT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THEY WOULD WORK WITH US, CITING THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AS AN EXAMPLE. SOUVANNA REPLIED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT A SPIRIT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WOULD PREVENT ANY DIFFICULTIES.

5. I MENTIONED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT AMERICAN FAMILIES AND POLITICAL LEADERS WERE, AS HE KNEW, MOST CONCERNED OVER THE FATE OF OUR MIA'S IN INDOCHINA. INDEED WE HAD RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI TODAY ON THAT SUBJECT. I INQUIRED WHETHER THE RLG HAD LISTS OF POWS WHICH IT COULD PRESENT TO THE OTHER SIDE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL OF SEPTEMBER 14. SOUVANNA REPLIED THAT THERE WERE VERY COMPLETE DOSIERS ON ALL THE NVA PRISONERS AND THAT THE POW WERE SLEEK AND FAT. THERE WERE NO PATHET LAO PRISONERS. INDIVIDUALS SEIZED DURING ENGAGEMENTS HAVE ALL RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. HE SAID HE WAS MINDFUL OF AMERICAN CONCERN OVER MISSING AND CAPTURED PERSONNEL AND URGED THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE PATIENT UNTIL AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

6. THE REST OF OUR TALK WAS ON PERSONAL MATTERS SUCH AS THE CONTRCTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S NEW HOUSE IN LUANG PRABANG. THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION THE PRIME MINISTER WAS RELAXED AND FRIENDLY.

WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

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NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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